

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Volume: 633 Nov. 30, 2017

He Gave

Bill Brinkworth

At a time when everyone is giving gifts to each other, it would do us well to remember what God has given us:

- God has given us everything we have: food, drink, health, ability to work, and a mind to think and accomplish all that we do. There is nothing that we have that God has not, in one way or another, allowed us to have. Those that proudly proclaim they have “done it all themselves” do not understand that every breath, every heartbeat, and all that we do, are allowed by God. There is no such thing as a “self-made man”.
“And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.”
Ecclesiastes 3:13
“I have planted, Apollos watered but God gave the increase.” *1 Corinthians 3:6*
- God has given the gift of salvation to all who will accept His way to Heaven. God has given His son, Jesus, to die and pay for our transgressions. All that accept Jesus’ death on the cross as payment for their sin can have the gift of salvation.

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

- For those that are saved, God gave His gift of the Holy Spirit to them.

“... and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:38

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 14:26

- For those that are saved, God has given them one or more spiritual gifts to serve Him. *“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.” Romans 12:6-8*

- For those that are saved, God has given us power over the many obstacles we face during our life-times.

“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” Mat. 21:22

“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.” I John 3:22

God is so wonderful to give us all that He has given us. None deserve His goodness. The least we can do is to give back to Him part of what He has allowed us to have. We should give to Him, not because we have to, but because we want to. God wants us to serve Him, obey Him, and live for Him because we love Him. Do you love Him enough to give back to a giving God? No one can give more than our heavenly Father has, but will you give some of your time, finances, and life to Him?

“Give God what's right, not what's left.”

Give, When It Seems Impossible

Rev. D W. Clark, 1850

Hohaunes, the blind missionary of Harpoot, told of a place where his mission board had spent much money with little result, where he was sent. It was a poor place. The people were to raise six hundred piastres; and the board was to pay the balance of his salary.

The people said they could not raise that sum. A neighboring pastor said it was impossible, as they were so poor.

After much anxiety, the missionary laid the case before God in prayer, when it was impressed upon him that each should give his tenth. He proposed it to the people, and they agreed to it. The money was easily raised, and amounted to more than the entire salary. That people had never prospered so much before. Their crops were

abundant, and their satisfaction great. They not only supported their preacher and school-teacher, but gave two thousand piastres to other purposes. They learned one cannot out-give God.

“God has given us two hands—one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing.” — *Graham*

Credit for What the Heart Gave

Rev. D W. Clark, 1850

After a sermon on giving, one of the congregation, by accident, put a crown-piece in the plate, instead of a penny. Staring at his valued “gift”, he asked to have it back.

The man who collected the offering replied, “In once; in forever.”

“That’s not right!” grunted the unwilling giver. “Oh well, I’ll get credit for it in Heaven.”

“Nay. Nay!” said the collector. “I reckon you’ll only get credit for the penny you really wanted to give.”

“Jesus has given so much to us. What have you given to Him?”

Luxury of Giving

C. H. Spurgeon

I knew a Christian lad who adopted the principle of giving a tenth to God. When he won a money-prize for an essay on a religious subject, he felt he could not give less than one-fifth of it. He had never, after that, been able to deny himself the pleasure of giving a fifth of his earnings. God had wonderfully blessed that lad, and increased his means, and his enjoyment of the luxury of luxuries — the luxury of giving back some of what God had blessed him with.

“It is not an accident that seventeen of the thirty-six parables of our Lord had to do with property and stewardship.” — *Dawson*

The Baptized Wallet

Walter Knight

Dr. E. Neighbour was baptizing a railway engineer. The pastor was ready to proceed with the baptismal service.

“Wait!” whispered the engineer, “I forgot something. I want to return to the dressing room, and get my wallet and let you baptize it with me!”

Oh, that more of our pocketbooks were “baptized” and opened up to be freely used for God’s work.

I Surrender All

A Hymn by Judson W. Van DeVenter, 1896

1. All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.

Refrain:

I surrender all,
I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

2. All to Jesus I surrender,
Humbly at His feet I bow;
Worldly pleasures all forsaken,
Take me, Jesus, take me now.

Refrain.

3. All to Jesus I surrender,
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine.

Refrain.

4. All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power,
Let Thy blessing fall on me.

Refrain.

“The most important thing any Christian can give to the Lord is a completely surrendered and obedient attitude”